(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the assistance provided by Government of India for rehabilitation of Tamils and to send back displaced families to their residences and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) to (c) Government is of the view that the conclusion of military operations in Sri Lanka provides an opportunity to make a new beginning and pursue a lasting political settlement in Sri Lanka. The way forward lies in a peacefully negotiated political settlement within the framework of a united Sri Lanka, acceptable to all the communities in Sri Lanka including the Tamils. The National Security Advisor and Foreign Secretary visited Colombo on May 20-21, 2009 and held talks with the Sri Lankan Government. The necessity of reaching a political settlement was emphasized. On June 24, 2009, a high-level Sri Lankan delegation led by the Senior Adviser to the Sri Lankan President visited India to continue bilateral discussions. Government continues to stay engaged with the Government of Sri Lanka in this regard.

Government has emphasized that the Sri Lankan Government must focus on the tasks of rehabilitation and resettlement of the internally displaced persons. The President and Government of Sri Lanka have assured Government that Sri Lanka is resolved to resettle most of the displaced persons in their original homes within six months. In addition to the extensive humanitarian assistance provided to IDPs so far, the Government of India has committed Rs. 500 crores for the relief and rehabilitation of the internally displaced persons in Sri Lanka. With a view to facilitating speedy rehabilitation of IDPs, Government is implementing several measures including demining assistance, medical assistance, re-construction of houses, shelter material and provision of civil infrastructure.

Pakistan's efforts to build nuclear arms

†1378. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that Pakistan is engaged in making nuclear arms of new generation;

(b) if so, whether Government is also aware of the fact that Pakistan is producing enriched uranium used in making bomb, to make nuclear arms; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR): (a) Government has seen reports that Pakistan is enhancing its nuclear weapons production capacity.

(b) and (c) Pakistan has been producing enriched uranium for nuclear weapons for more than two decades. Government monitors all such developments which have a bearing on national security and is committed to taking all necessary steps to safeguard the nation's security.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.